

Senate Resolution 42

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Albers of the 56th, Brass of the 6th, Bearden of the 30th, Watson of the 1st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 27, 2025, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation
4 of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, resulting
5 in the murder of six million Jews as well as the oppression and deaths of millions of others,
6 including Roma, people with disabilities, and Poles; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1998, HB 1664 was passed by the Georgia state legislature, establishing the
8 Georgia Commission on the Holocaust as a permanent state agency charged with creating
9 educational programs for Georgia citizens and operating as a secular, non-partisan entity; and

10 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is tasked with preserving the
11 memory of the Holocaust, promoting public understanding of its history, and reminding
12 citizens to remain vigilant against hatred, racism, antisemitism, persecution, and genocide;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, is
15 observed as International Holocaust Remembrance Day to memorialize the six million
16 Jewish victims of the Holocaust and the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution; and

17 WHEREAS, January 27, 2025, marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz,
18 a critical time to honor the victims, survivors, and liberators while recognizing the lessons
19 of Holocaust history amidst an alarming global rise in antisemitism; and

20 WHEREAS, located in German-occupied Poland, Auschwitz consisted of three camps,
21 including Birkenau, a killing center where over a million victims were systematically
22 murdered by individuals and professionals involved in its operation; and

23 WHEREAS, trains carrying Jews from across Nazi-occupied and allied Europe regularly
24 arrived at Auschwitz, where its leadership and workers conducted these systematic killings
25 over nearly five years; and

26 WHEREAS, in mid-January 1945, as Soviet forces approached Auschwitz, SS units forcibly
27 evacuated nearly 60,000 prisoners on death marches under brutal winter conditions, resulting
28 in thousands of deaths from starvation, exposure, and violence; and

29 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1945, the Soviet army liberated Auschwitz, freeing the
30 remaining 7,000 prisoners, many of whom were sick and dying, and ending the camp's
31 operation; and

32 WHEREAS, we, the people of Georgia, join communities throughout the world in
33 commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day and honoring the victims,
34 survivors, and liberators of the Holocaust.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize January 27, 2025, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
39 press.